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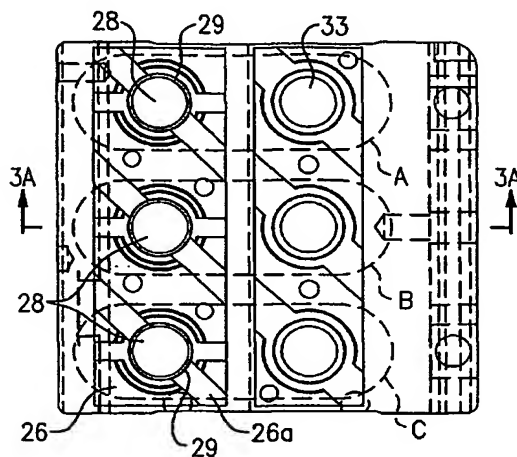
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(54) Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR HANDLING AN OPHTHALMIC LENS



(57) Abstract: In a first aspect, the present invention provides an apparatus and method including a servo driven lens release head for releasing a cured lens in the dry state from the mold section in which it is adhered following mold release. The servo load parameters may be changed according to the lens type being processed. In a second aspect of the invention, the present invention provides an apparatus and method for retrieving the loosened lens from the mold section and transferring the lens to a lens inspection apparatus followed by either a lens rejection or transferring the passed lens to a receptacle for subsequent lens processing and packaging. The three substations of lens release, lens inspection and lens deposit are annularly spaced 120° from each other and three lenses may therefore be simultaneously processed through 120° incremental movement of three pick and place heads.



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